

REMARKS

Applicants wish to express gratitude to the Examiner for having consented to and conducting a telephonic interview regarding this case.

This Amendment and Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed September 9, 2003, which has been received and carefully analyzed. Claims 6, 12, and 21 have been amended. Claims 25-27 have been added.

Claims 6-9, 12, 15, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackstone et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,164,813).

Claims 10-11, and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackstone et al. as applied to claims 6-9, 12, 15, and 23-24, and further in view of Hamerski (US 2002/063059).

Consistent with the discussion during the Examiner interview on December 18th, 2003, applicants have amended the claims in the application to particularly set forth and describe the 'well' feature of the present invention.

As set forth in applicant's prior amendment, Blackstone et al., neither teaches nor suggests the 'well' of applicant's invention. In addition to rephrasing the 'well' limitation, applicants have also incorporated an additional limitation reciting the presence of an edge termination of the device defined in part by a moat, to more clearly delineate the 'well' element. Blackstone neither suggests or teaches the presence of a well, nor a well and a moat. The well in applicant's invention is also further described to be capable of receiving material, which is also not taught or suggested by Blackstone. The received material being either diffused or deposited as a region or layer in the well.

In light of the above amendments and the reasons stated in the prior response and amendment, claims 6-9, 12, 15, and 24 – 28 of applicant's invention are non-obvious in light of Blackstone. Further, a statement of common ownership with respect to Hamerski had previously been provided, thus disqualifying Hamerski as a prior art reference.

Applicants therefore assert that based on the claim limitations as explained in the remarks contained herein, the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action and allowance of the claims and entry of these remarks into the record is respectfully requested.

None of the cited references, either alone or in any combination thereof, disclose or suggest the novel features associated with the present invention.

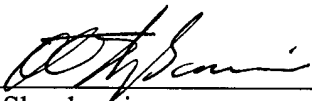
CONCLUSION

Entry of the above amendment and remarks are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, consideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Further, a Notice of Allowance appears to be in order and such is courteously solicited. If any issue regarding the allowability of this application could be readily resolved, or if other action could be taken to further advance this application such as an Examiner's amendment, or if the Examiner should have any questions regarding the present amendment, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner please telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney in this regard. Applicants' request for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is enclosed herewith. Please charge the appropriate extension fee and any other fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 11-0160.

Respectfully submitted,

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